

# Good News, Bad News

January 6, 2021

The good news is that between infections and vaccinations the coronavirus likely will be completely stamped out in the next few months. The state and the nation will reach “herd immunity” and life will return to pre-pandemic normalcy. The bad news is until that time, extra caution is required in our region. The intensive care units of the local hospitals are full and extra capacity has had to be created. Consequently, the church program is adjusting once more to the ever-changing pandemic circumstances.

- Church meals are placed on hold. There will be no Sunday night, Tuesday morning, or Wednesday noon meals, while there will be Sunday worship, Tuesday morning men’s prayer, and Wednesday noon Bible study (moved back to the sanctuary). We are halting the *meals*, not the *services*;
- in addition to meeting on-site, ZOOM will continue to be available for Tuesday men’s prayer meeting, Tuesday women’s Bible study, Wednesday noon Bible study and iPrimes Bible study;
- Youth group (Wed.), College Bible Study, Career Group Bible Study and Youth Choir (Wed.) will continue to meet on-site, but without any food being served where food previously was served;
- Sunday evening Youth programs will be halted;
- Sunday evening Chapel Choir will continue for now;
- masks are encouraged until one reaches one’s pew/chair or one is back outside in the fresh air and sunshine.

The coronavirus restrictions have taken a toll on the life of our church and all the churches. Even at our peak activity since March 15, our whole-church program was only operating at 65% capacity on average ministering on-site to 965 people, down from 1500 pre-pandemic. We hope and pray that before long all restrictions may be removed, our Sunday School may be restored, we may return to one Sunday morning service, and we may eliminate social distancing, masks, and elbow bumps. May the Lord Christ, our Mediator and Advocate, hear and perfect our prayer and restore our church life to normalcy!

Sincerely in Christ,

Terry

*P.S. On a personal note, my quarantine ends on Thursday. Thankfully my symptoms have been mild. A COVID test on Wednesday was negative. Thankfully, I should be good to go beginning Friday morning.*